



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: Feb. 2, 2007

FR: Executive Director

RE: AB 38 (Nava): Improve State Coordination of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

Description

Assembly Bill 38 (Nava) would establish the state Office of Homeland Security (OHS) as a division within the state Office of Emergency Services (OES), rather than a stand-alone agency. It would also specify the duties of the Director of Homeland Security.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

MTC supports restructuring California's emergency response system so that responsibility for identifying and mitigating all hazards — be they natural or man-made disasters — is vested in a single statewide entity.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the OHS is budgeted as a division within OES, but in reality, the two entities operate largely independent of one another, creating confusion over roles and responsibilities. MTC's 2007 Legislative Program supports the integration of these two agencies as a way to improve the state's readiness and emergency response capabilities. Accordingly, we recommend a support position on AB 38.

Known Positions

Support

California State Sheriffs' Association

Oppose

None

Steve Heminger